(c) the progress so far achieved for roofing of the Platform Nos. 1 & 2 of Chengannur Station; and

(d) whether Government are taking necessary steps to complete the entire roofing of both Platforms during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES); (a) Works relating to improvement of Chengannur Railway Station were carried out recently at a cost of Rs. 14 lakhs. In view of the growing passenger traffic it has been decided to further increase the passenger amenities at the station by providing additional 2nd class paid waiting hall and advance reservation facilities during 1990-91 subject to availability of funds.

(b) Extension of platform No. 1 was sanctioned during 1989-90 at a cost of Rs. 2. 85 lakhs, but could not be progressed due to paucity of funds. Sufficient allocation will be made to complete this work during 1990-91.

(c) and (d) Adequate cover over platform No. 1 exists. For platform No. 2 the deficiency in the platform covering is proposed to be eliminated by extending the cover by 48 Metres during 1990-91 subject to availability of funds.

Child labour in the country

2181. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of child labourers in the country; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to stop the inhuman exploitation of children in various industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN); (a) According to the 43rd round (during July, 1987 June, 1988) Survey of the National Sample Survey the number of child labourers in the country is estimated to be about 17 million.

(b) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below fourteen years of age in certain specified occupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their conditions of work in employments in which they are not prohibited from working. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948; the Mines Act, 1952; the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; the Shops and Commercial! Establishments Acts of the States|Union Territories; etc. which either prohibit or regulate the employment of children in specified areas. All these Acts are in force at present. Government have also formulated the National Policy on Child Labour -1987 which provides for a number of welfare measures to minimise the exploitation of working children,

Allotment of land *to* group housing societies in Delhi

2182. SHRT BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 100 housing societiels are waiting for the allotment of land in Papan Kalan in Delhi for more than 5 years;

(b) if so. what are the reasons there for and by when the same is likejy to be allotted to these societies; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the promoters of these societies have complained to Government that DDA officials are deliberately delaying the allotment of the land in order to benefit the private coloniser if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THF MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and fb) The concentual plan of the Papan Kalan nroiect has been recently anoroved by the Delhi Urban Art Commission. It is a big and long term project meant to accommodate one million